

Two American League Clubs Reported Seeking Nationals' Promising Backstop

EDDIE AINSWORTH IN DEMAND AMONG BIG LEAGUE BALL CLUBS

New York and Detroit Trying to Obtain Young Backstop.

CALLAHAN MAY AID GRIFF, IF POSSIBLE

Hugh McKinnon Insists His League Is Major Organization.

By "SENATOR."

Detroit and New York are making an effort to obtain the services of Eddie Ainsworth, of the Nationals.

With Clark Griffith at the league meeting in Chicago there is nothing doing at headquarters concerning baseball news, but the reports from the Windy City are that these two clubs are bidding for the young catcher who has done so well during his short service in the major leagues.

Griffith is not likely to trade the player outright but, if the chance presents itself, he may offer a financial proposition that will attract those who are most anxious to obtain the backstop.

No One Knows.

No one in authority in the Washington ball club today appeared to know what players entered in the discussion of a trade between Clark Griffith and Jim Callahan, at that secret meeting in Chicago yesterday.

Griffith and Callahan are as close personal friends as any of the managers in the American League, and it is believed that if the opportunity presented itself, either would be willing to help out the other. Griffith's catching staff has caused envy around the circuit, while the Chicago White Sox have a surfeit of promising material that has yet to be tried out in a major league. It is probably upon this basis that the two managers met yesterday.

Griffith said before leaving here that he intended to talk to all of the managers in the hope of being able to buy some of the players they do not need, so it would not be surprising if there were some interesting news, so far as Washington fandom is concerned, before adjournment at Chicago.

Hardly Serious.

The talk from St. Louis, to the effect that "Dutch" Schaefer may be a manager in the Columbia League, that out-law organization in the middle West, is not taken seriously.

While Schaefer has yet to sign a Washington contract, all terms have been offered to him, and as he is practically assured of a permanent berth, either at first base or in the outfield, the officials here do not believe that he would be so foolish as to jeopardize his standing by identifying himself with such a venture as it is proposed to launch in the West.

Hugh McKinnon, who is looking after Washington's interests in the United States League, the outlaw organization in the East, left today for Cleveland to attend a meeting of the managers of the invaders.

McKinnon will be back by the end of the week, and promises at that time to make a positive announcement as to who will manage the Washington team.

Considering Several.

"I have under consideration the names of several former players who want the job, but I will not give out their names until after I have talked with President Wilkes," said McKinnon today.

McKinnon, furthermore, took occasion to say something concerning the war of words that has been going on between his fellow-managers for several days. E. W. Langford, who controls the Richmond franchise, is quoted as having said that the United States League is in no way a major league, and this was immediately repeated by Amos Huesey, owner of the Brooklyn team. McKinnon is of the same opinion as Huesey.

"Of course, we claim that we have just as much of a major league as either the American or National. We are going out and grab up all the material available, and as we have a chance to develop, I think we will have just as high standard of play as you see in either of the big leagues," is the optimistic viewpoint taken by President McKinnon.

Boston Club Had Record Batting Average in 1873

The Boston club, champions of 1873, holds a record for team batting. The line-up and averages follow: Ross Barnes, .453; George Wright, .422; Jim White, .401; Jim O'Rourke, .371; Al Spalding, .371; Addy, .371; Jim Manning, .390; Harry Schaffer, .390; Andy Leonard, .355; Harry Wright, .370. A grand team batting average of .361.

Charlie King Will Be Coach for Business

Charlie King, manager of the local headquarters of A. G. Spalding, a well-known amateur, has been obtained by Business High School to act as coach of the baseball team this spring. He will begin at once to get his candidates in line, and hopes for a successful season on the diamond.

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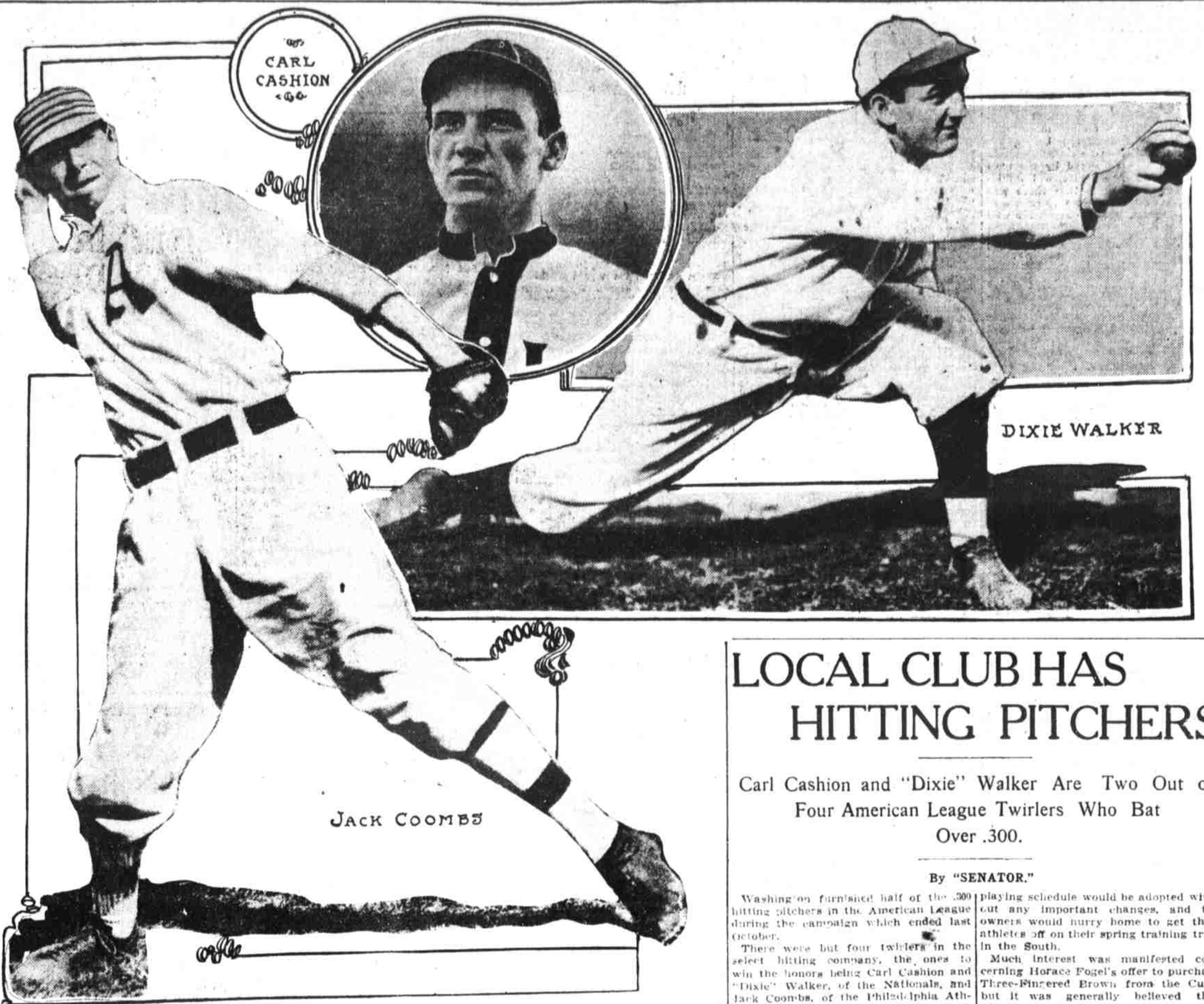
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Here Are Three Pitchers, Two of Them Nationals, Who Hit Hard Enough to Land in .300 Class



JACK COOMBS

DIXIE WALKER

CARL CASHION

LOCAL CLUB HAS HITTING PITCHERS

Carl Cashion and "Dixie" Walker Are Two Out of Four American League Twirlers Who Bat Over .300.

By "SENATOR."

Washington furnished half of the 300 hitting pitchers in the American League during the campaign which ended last October.

There were but four twirlers in the select hitting company, the ones to win the honors being Carl Cashion and "Dixie" Walker, of the Nationals, and Jack Coombs, of the Philadelphia Athletics, and Brockton, of the New York Highlanders.

When he was discovered in Carolina, Cashion had even a greater reputation as a hitter than he had as a pitcher, and on the days when he was not in the box he was usually worked in the outfield. This season was calculated to help a man not so strong physically as the big Carolinian, but as soon as he got here and had an opportunity to test, Cashion immediately commanded respect as a slugger, his remarkable speed considering his size adding to his value.

In the twenty-one games in which he has pitched Cashion hit .321, making him the second Washingtonian on the list, Schaefer being the only National whose record was better.

Jack Coombs stood second among the pitchers in the matter of hammering the ball. In his fifty-two games he finished with an average of .319. Like Cashion, Coombs is a good all-round player, and might fit in the outfield as soon as he has completed his career as a twirler.

Brockton, of New York, who worked in less games than any of the other three, was "hit" among the pitchers, with .308, while Walker just got into the 200 class with three points to spare.

It is doubtful if there is a player in the American League who has a more awkward position at the plate than has "Dixie" Walker, still he is known as a "Dixie" because he is known as a "Dixie" when he gets into real action, still at that he is a good man to stick in at any time.

Griffith is hoping to tame Walker, and as soon as the club starts its training the player will be given to understand that he must take his position more seriously. If Griffith can accomplish this the value of Walker will be greatly enhanced.

To Adopt Schedule Without Any Change

NEW YORK, Feb. 12.—With minor league magnates on the outside waiting for an opportunity to grab off some of the discarded ball players, the National League Club owners met behind closed doors at the Waldorf shortly after noon today. Before the magnates went into session, it was said that the

playing schedule would be adopted without any important changes, and the owners would hurry home to get their athletes off on their spring training trips in the South.

Much interest was manifested concerning Horace Fogel's offer to purchase Three-Binned Brown, from the Cubs, but it was generally believed that Charlie Murphy would put such a steep price on his veteran that there would be no sale. Murphy rent a contract to Brown yesterday, and said he did not place any credence in the report that the minor intended to quit the diamond. Charlie Herzog was on hand bright and early to file a claim against the Reading Club, of the Tri-State League. He says he got a player for the team on the condition that he was to get half of the purchase price. The money was not forthcoming, and Herzog wants the commission to make the club come through.

"Peaches" Graham Now Belongs to Phillies

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Feb. 12.—George "Peaches" Graham, who figured in the deal with the Boston Nationals whereby Johnny Kling went to the Hub, has again been shifted. The Cubs letting him go to the Phillies in return for Catcher Cotter and Pitcher Ward. When with the Boston club Graham was known as one of the most valuable men in the National League, his hitting being hard and his all-around ability noted. With the Cubs he was seldom used. Manager Doolin thinks he will be of great use here this season.

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JIMMY M'ALEER IS PROUD OF STAFF OF YOUNG PITCHERS

Touts Wood as Being as Good as Walter Johnson.

Jimmy McAleer, the Boston Red Sox mogul, is sweet on his twirling staff and glows on the wonderful work to be done this year by "Buck" O'Brien, Larry Pape, Eddie Clotte, Charlie Hall, Hagerman, Bushelman, Joe Wood, and Ray Collins.

"I think this bunch of pitchers I have," says McAleer, "is the real cream. Look at Mack's bunch; they're all veterans, except young Danforth and Krause. They can't last. On the other hand, look at Joe Wood, 'Buck' O'Brien, Ray Collins, Charlie Hall, Clotte, Hagerman, and Bushelman; all youngsters. They have a long baseball career ahead of them and under careful treatment should swing this club of mine into first place. If the Red Sox don't land this year, they're sure to next season."

"This boy Wood is one of the greatest in the business, and I've seen Walter Johnson, too. He is just as good a pitcher as Johnson, and a better batter and runner. The Washington star is a great man, though, and I'd be delighted to have him on the Red Sox. That's a clutch thing."

McAleer will not go to Hot Springs with his team, remaining in Boston to oversee the erection of his new plant.

Schlei Is Released.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Feb. 12.—George "Admiral" Schlei, the veteran backstop of the Giants, has been released by the Chicago Cubs to the Colonels. Schlei was out of the game all last season, but expects to be in shape this year.

"Duffy" Lewis Is Scout For Lawrence While He Sojourns For Winter

George Lewis, known to American League fans as "Duffy" Lewis, slugging left fielder of the Boston Red Sox, has turned scout. When he left Boston for his home in California he promised Louis Pelper, former Harvard coach and now magnate in Lawrence, Mass., that he would watch out for some promising youngsters on the Coast. He has come through with a boost for Schwerin, an outfielder with a San Francisco semi-pro club, who will get a trial with the Lawrence club. Our own Eddie Ainsworth once performed for Lawrence, which is in the New England League.

Nash, Brown Captain, To Join Naplanders

PROVIDENCE, R. I., Feb. 12.—Kenneth Nash, captain of Brown's varsity nine, and looked upon as one of the best college shortstops since Jack Barry played at Holy Cross, will join the Cleveland Naps in June. Connie Mack, manager of the Philadelphia Athletics, was particularly desirous of getting him, but Sam Kennedy won out a year ago.

Oakland Fans to Give Wolverton Loving Cup

Harry Wolverton will be presented with a beautiful loving cup from the fans of Oakland, Cal., when he leads the New York Yankees onto the field for the opening game this year. Wolverton made good decisively as manager at Oakland last season.

GEORGE MORIARTY MUST SHOW CLASS TO LAND THAT JOB

Five Candidates Out for Third With Jennings' Tiger Team.

Though George Moriarty will not be let loose by Hugh Jennings, he will have to hustle to hold his job. Besides the veteran the Tigers will have Westzil, Pat Bauman, Loudon, and Vitt. Bauman played a while last year and showed some signs of making good with a vengeance once the new campaign got under way. The others are new to Tigerland.

Vitt comes from the San Francisco club of the Pacific Coast League. He hit for .32 last season in 124 games, and fielded for .318. All critics who have seen him predict a great future under the tutelage of Hugh Jennings.

Loudon was the bright particular star of the Eastern League in 1911, playing third for the Newark club. Only the other day George Stallings offered Detroit \$2,500 for this youngster. He fielded for .349 in 54 games at third, and for .309 in 61 games at short for the Newark club. He stung the leather for .302.

If Moriarty can recover his former great batting eye and smooth fielding the battle for the regular job on third with the Tigers should be worth going into to see.

Plenty of Backing.

Having so many young players in his line-up, Manager Griffith should have plenty of backing next spring from the fans.

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